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Title: Regarding problems being faced by fishermen community.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture about the problems being faced by the fishermen community in the country.

The fishermen community in India, especially in the Southern States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, are facing very acute problems due to (i) the CRZ Rules which prevent fishermen to construct new houses or renovation of the old houses; (ii) there is a significant reduction in the availability of fish, both in the sea and in other water bodies like rivers, ponds, etc., and this has affected the daily livelihood of the fishermen: and (iii) the present currency policy of the Government has affected badly the fishing industry as a whole. there is a cash crunch, both for the traditional fishermen who catch the fish and the traders who buy and sale the fish and the industry who exports the fish.

I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to solve the problems of the fishermen community in the country and help them to earn their livelihood.